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TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS USED IN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE TEACHING OF RUSSIAN.

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PUB DATE 24 AUG 67

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.25 HC-$0.32 8P.

DESCRIPTORS- *INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, *RUSSIAN, *SECONDARY SCHOOLS, *STATE SURVEYS, *LANGUAGE PROGRAMS, TEXTBOOKS, PERIODICALS, READING MATERIALS, CALIFORNIA, CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,

A SUMMARY IS GIVEN OF A 1965-1966 SURVEY OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS USED BY RUSSIAN TEACHERS IN GRADES 7 TO 12 IN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THIRTEEN BASIC TEXTBOOKS, SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS, AND TEACHING AIDS ARE LISTED FOR PROGRAMS THAT RANGED IN LENGTH FROM ONE TO FOUR YEARS. COMMENTS FROM TEACHERS INDICATED THAT MOST WERE SATISFIED WITH THEIR TEXTS, BUT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE VISUAL AIDS, ESPECIALLY FILMS, FILMSTRIPS, AND CHARTS, AND TESTS CORRELATED WITH TEXTBOOKS, WOULD BE USEFUL. (AB)

ED012569

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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721 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, California 95814

August 24, 1967

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Survey:

During the school year 1965-66 there were 58 public elementary and secondary schools in California offering instruction in Russian. These schools were asked to respond to a questionnaire on textbooks and materials being used in the teaching of Russian. Forty-eight schools returned the questionnaire, giving an 82.7% response.

Enrollment:

The following figures, obtained from other sources, apply to enrollment in California public elementary and secondary school Russian classes for the school year 1966-67:

1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year	Total
1,233	655	242	65	1	2,196

Sequence:

A four-year sequence in Russian was offered in 13 of the 48 schools that responded to the questionnaire. Seventeen had a three-year sequence, 14 had a two-year sequence, and 4 were offering only the first year at that time.

Russian was available to 7th graders in 2 schools, to 8th graders in 3 schools. Ninth graders in 28 different schools could enroll in Russian classes, and 45 schools offered Russian to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students.

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*A special credit is given to the two consultants who conducted the survey and prepared this report, Mr. Robert W. Parr and Mr. Lloyd G. Baysdorfer.

Textbooks:

The following were listed as basic texts for the levels indicated: *

	Number of schools using the text in: 1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year
Basic Conversational Russian	3	3	1	
Essentials of Russian	4	4	2	1
A-LM, Level One	30	2		
Level Two		25	4	
Level Three			14	1
Level Four				4
Modern Russian I, Vol. 1	1	1		
Vol. 2		1	1	
Basic Russian (Domar)	1	1	1	
Simplified Russian Grammar	3	4	5	1
Basic Russian (Fayer) Book One	4	1		
Book Two		3	1	
First Course in Russian	1	1	1	1
A Modern Russian Course			1	1
Introductory Russian Grammar			1	1

Supplementary Materials:

The following were given as supplementary texts and materials being used:

Books

1. Bill, V. T. The Russian People: A Reader on Their History and Culture. University of Chicago Press, 1965

2. Bond, Otto F. et al, editors. Graded Russian Readers I-V. D. C. Heath.

   Book One: Lermontov's Taman'. 1961
   Book Two: Two Short Stories by Pushkin. 1961
   Book Three: Lermontov's Bela. 1961
   Book Four: Three Short Stories by Turgenev. 1961
   Book Five: Turgenev's The Provincial Lady. 1962

3. Chekhov, A. A Selection of Humorous Stories. Edited by D. Bondar. Pitman, 1949

4. Fastenberg, Rashelle and Moses Ratner. Basic Russian Reader. Pitman, 1949

5. Fennell, John. Penguin Russian Course. Penguin Books, 1961

6. Khavronina. Russian As We Speak It. (Information regarding the purchase of this book may be obtained from the Znanie Book Store, 5237 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco or from other sources that import books from the Soviet Union.)

* Bibliographical information is given on page 6

7. Lunt, Horace G. Fundamentals of Russian. Norton, 1958

8. Maltzoff, Nicholas. Russian Reading and Conversation. (2nd edition.) Pitman, 1959

9. "Materials for Use in First Year Russian." San Diego City Schools, 1959

10. Pargment, Lila. Beginner's Russian Reader. (3rd edition.) Pitman, 1963

11. Pargment, Lila. Modern Russian Reader for Intermediate Classes. (2nd edition.) Pitman, 1960

12. Patrick, George Z. and Ludmilla. Elementary Russian Reader. Pitman, 1959

13. Patrick, George Z. Intermediate Russian Reader. Pitman, 1958

14. Posin, Jack. Beginner's Russian. D. C. Heath, 1964

15. Potapova, Nina. Russian Grammar: Elementary Course. Saphrograph, 1959

16. Pulkhina, I. M. Short Russian Reference Grammar. San Francisco Book Imports.

17. Pushkin, A. The Queen of Spades. Edited by D. Bondar. Pitman, 1944

18. Turkevich, L. B. and V. T. Bill, editors. Russian Readers I-V. Van Nostrand.

I. Rabbit's Paws by K. Paustovsky and Zinochka by N. Novoselova. 1961
II. The Fate of Man by M. Sholokhov. 1960
III. Chelkash by M. Gorky. 1961
IV. First Love by I. Turgenev. 1960
V. Netochka Nezvanova by F. Dostoevsky. 1962

19. Sieff, Mark. Colloquial Russian. Dutton.

20. Tolstoy, L. Tales, Fables and Stories and The Captive of the Caucasus. Cross World Books and Periodicals, 1960

21. Wiens, Gerhard. Beginning Russian Reader. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1961

Tapes and Records

1. Clement, Alexis. "Basic Russian Through Conversation." (Tapes and records.) Wilmac Records.

2. Pressman, Aron. "Living Russian." (Records.) Crown.

Periodicals

1. America Illustrated. USIA, Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

2. Izvestia. (Information regarding the purchase of this newspaper and other materials that are printed in the Soviet Union may be obtained from the Znanie Book Store, 5237 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco or from other sources that import books from the Soviet Union.)

3. Kometa. Scholastic Magazine and Services, 902 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

4. Krokodil. (See number 2 above.)

5. Mozaika. FAM Book Service, 69 Fifth Avenue, Suite F, New York 10003

6. Soviet Life. Soviet Life, 1706 Eighteenth Street N.W., Washington D. C. 20009

Other Aids

1. Ballad of a Soldier. (Film scenario.) Edited by Laurence Thompson et al. Harcourt, Brace and World, 1966

2. Stillman, Leon. Russian Verbs of Motion. (2nd edition.) Columbia University Press, 1951

Comments About Textbooks Being Used:

Approximately 75% of the schools indicated that they have used their current textbook for some time and that they are not contemplating a change. Generally, those schools that have changed texts recently or that are considering changing have looked for a book that would give more emphasis to speaking.

Criticism of the textbooks oriented to audio-lingual teaching centers around the vocabulary (not every-day, limited, uninteresting) and the need for supplementary materials. Other textbooks appear to be difficult to adapt to audio-lingual instruction, as well as to lack drill materials.

Since most teachers tend to choose textbooks that correspond to their philosophy of teaching, they are generally satisfied with the approach of the books that they are using.

Types of Textbooks Needed:

In keeping with the emphasis in grades 6-8 on the oral aspects of the language, it was indicated by most teachers that there is a very strong need for textbooks with extensive visual aids. Pictures of all kinds would be desirable, as well as drawings and other interest-catching aids. In grades 9-12 the main need seems to be for a textbook that would combine the best of the audio-lingual and the more grammar-oriented approaches. Many teachers using audio-lingual textbooks look for better and more extensive drills, both oral and written, whereas those using the grammar-oriented textbooks evidence the need for a more colorful format, with drills and exercises based on more common everyday situations.

Supplementary Materials Needed:

About 70% of the teachers who responded to the questionnaire feel that special audio-visual materials, such as films and charts, are very much needed for classroom instruction. Films and filmstrips head the list of suggested materials.

Testing Materials:

Half of the teachers agree that available testing materials are adequate, possibly because most of the teachers are using their own materials. The need is for more and better testing materials, particularly for those that will correlate with the textbook being used.

Basic Texts *

1. A-LM, Russian: Levels I, II, III, IV. Harcourt, Brace and World, 1961-65

2. Birkett, G. A. A Modern Russian Course. (3rd revised edition.) Oxford University Press, 1947

3. Dawson, Clayton and Charles Bidwell and Assya Humesky. Modern Russian I. (Two volumes.) Harcourt, Brace and World, 1964

4. Doherty, Joseph and Roberta Markus. First Course in Russian. Part One, Part Two and Part Three. D. C. Heath, 1960-62

5. Domar, Rebecca. Basic Russian. McGraw, Hill and Company, 1961

6. Fairbanks, Gordon and Richard Leed. Basic Conversational Russian. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964

7. Fayer, Mischa. Basic Russian. Book One and Book Two. Pitman, 1959-61

8. Fayer, Mischa and Aron Pressman. Simplified Russian Grammar. (2nd edition.) Pitman, 1963

9. Gronicka, Andre von and Helen Bates-Yakobson. Essentials of Russian. Prentice-Hall, 1964

10. Stilman, Galina and W. E. Harkins. Introductory Russian Grammar. Blaisdell, 1964

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